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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who at creation brought order out of chaos and light out of darkness, bring order and illumination to our world. As our law-makers labor, illuminate the darkness of pessimism and doubt, as You give them the wisdom to distinguish between truth and falsehood, good and evil, better and best. Lord, renew their spirits and lift their vision so that they can see possibilities that are now hidden from them. Keep them from embracing the second best, and let their ordered lives confess the beauty of Your peace.

We pray in the Name of him who is the light of the world. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 15, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a

Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SENATOR BIDEN'S FAREWELL SPEECH TO THE SENATE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator BIDEN is here to give his farewell address to the U.S. Senate. Over the many decades he has served in the Senate, he has given many speeches in the Senate. We all look forward to his final remarks, recognizing the loss of his service in the Senate is significant. However, being Vice President, he will still be President of the Senate.

I will always remember Senator BIDEN telling me, after the time he had been selected to be Vice President: I am a Senate guy. I will always be a Senate guy.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. We will start that after the distinguished Republican leader and I have finished our remarks. Following Senator BIDEN's statement, which he will give as soon as we finish our remarks, Senator CLINTON will come and give her farewell address. In addition, Senator SALAZAR intends to give his farewell speech sometime, as soon as there is clearance on the calendar. But it will be today.

At noon, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 22, the public lands bill. There will be up to 10 minutes for debate equality divided between Senators

BINGAMAN and COBURN. Upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate will consider any managers' amendments cleared by both leaders, and we will proceed to a rollcall vote on passage of the bill. Upon disposition of the lands bill, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 181, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. Therefore, Senators should expect two rollcall votes beginning at approximately 12:10 p.m. today.

Also, at 2 p.m. today, Senator-appointee BURRIS will take the oath of office to be a U.S. Senator. At 11 a.m. tomorrow, Senator-appointee KAUFMAN will be sworn in to replace Senator BIDEN of Delaware.

With respect to the resolution of disapproval regarding the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, the TARP legislation, yesterday we proposed a unanimous-consent request to our Republican colleagues for a limited amount of debate and a vote on the joint resolution at around 4 o'clock today. We hope to be able to lock that agreement in shortly.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just a couple of brief remarks.

With all the challenges our country faces, I think we all agree on the importance of this Congress getting off to a fast and effective start. In many ways, I believe we are on that track.

Today, we will likely pass a major wilderness bill that will preserve our environment for the enjoyment of generations to come. The press reports it is the most significant environmental bill that will be passed in more than a quarter century.

We are making progress on confirmation hearings so President Obama will have his team hit the ground running on January 20. We have seated new Members and announced new committee assignments for the 111th Congress.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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